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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Programme questions and other matters: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The functions of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, which are set out in paragraph 3 of document ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963 and in its addenda, are:

(a) To lay down general rules governing the action of the Institute in matters entrusted to it;

(b) To review and approve work programmes and the relevant budgets of the Institute;

(c) To submit regularly to the Commission for Social Development a progress report on the work of the Institute.

2. The present composition of the Board is:

(a) A Chairperson, appointed by the Secretary-General;

(b) Ten members nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(d) A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) The Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, Santiago;

(f) The Director of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur;

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(g) The Director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Dakar;

(h) The Executive-Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(i) Representatives of two of the following specialized agencies, appointed in rotation: the International Labour Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and the World Health Organization;

(j) The Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, ex officio.

3. The 10 members of the Board referred to in subparagraph 2 (b) above are nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council. The term of office of each nominated member is four years, renewable once for a further period of two years.[1]

4. Lourdes Arizpe (Mexico) has been Chairperson of the Board since 2005. The nominated members of the Board are:

- Sir Tony Atkinson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford University
- Christian Comeliau (France), former Professor of Development Economics at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva
- Yakin Ertürk (Turkey), Professor, Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
- Anna Hedborg (Sweden), Director-General, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Stockholm
- Asma Jahangir (Pakistan), Partner, AGHS Law Associates, Lahore
- Elizabeth Jelin (Argentina), Senior Researcher, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), University of Buenos Aires
- Amina Mama (Nigeria), Professor, African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya (Russian Federation), former Editor, *Pro et Contra*, Carnegie Moscow Center
- Adele Smith Simmons (United States of America), Vice-Chair, Chicago Metropolis 2020
- One vacant position following the resignation of Jomo Kwame Sundaram (Malaysia) in December 2004

5. The term of office of Yakin Ertürk, Elizabeth Jelin and Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya will expire on 30 June 2007, and they are eligible for renomination for a further period of two years to 30 June 2009.

[1] In its resolution 10 (XXV), the Commission for Social Development decided that the term of office of each nominated member of the Board should not exceed a total of six years.

6. The term of office of Sir Tony Atkinson, Anna Hedborg, Amina Mama and Adele Smith Simmons will expire on 30 June 2007. They will have served on the Board for six years and are not eligible for renomination.

7. There is one vacant position following the resignation of Jomo Kwame Sundaram (Malaysia) in December 2004.

8. The Commission will therefore be called upon at its forty-fifth session to nominate five new members to the Board to replace those referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 above for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2011. The Commission will also be called upon to extend the term of office of each of the nominated members referred to in paragraph 5 above for an additional two-year term expiring on 30 June 2009. The biographical information of the five new candidates is contained in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Biographical information

Peter Brandt Evans

Personal data

Nationality: United States of America.

Date of birth: 1944.

Present position

Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, since 1990.

Marjorie Meyer Eliaser Professor of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley, since 2002.

Director, Mellon Fellowship Program on Latin American Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, since 1994.

Co-Director, Global Metropolitan Studies Program, University of California, Berkeley, since 2005.

Member, "Successful Societies" Program, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, since 2004.

Education

B.A. Harvard College, 1966.

M.A. Harvard University, 1968.

Ph.D., Harvard University, 1971.

M.A., Oxford University, 2005.

Experience

Eastman Visiting Professor, Oxford University, 2004-2005.

Chair, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, 1998-2000, 2002-2004.

Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, since 2001.

Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation, 2001-2002.

Chancellor's Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, 1997-2000.

Professor of Sociology and Latin American Studies, University of New Mexico, 1987-1990.

Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, CA, 1988-1989.

Professor, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego, 1986-1990.

Professor of Sociology, University of California, San Diego, 1986-1990.

Member, Sociological Research Association (Honorary Society of American Sociological Association) since 1991.

Fellow, Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford), 1988-1989.

Guggenheim Fellow, 1988-1989.

Associate Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Development, Brown University, 1983-1987.

Professor Sociology, Brown University, 1983-1987.

Visiting Scholar, Latin American Institute, University of New Mexico, 1983-1986.

Associate Professor of Sociology, Brown University, 1977-1983.

Rosalind Eyben

Personal data

Nationality: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date of birth: 1944.

Present position

Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies and Leader of the Participation, Power and Social Change Team, since 2002.

Education

B.A. Anthropology (Hons.) London.

M.A. Sociology and Anthropology, Manchester.

Ph.D., Social Anthropology, London.

Experience

Head of DFID Office, Bolivia, 2000-2002.

Chief Social Development Adviser, United Kingdom Department for International Development, London, 1992-2000.

Social Development Adviser, 1986-1991.

Pasuk Phongpaichit

Personal data

Nationality: Thailand.

Date of birth: 1946.

Present position

Professor, Faculty of Economics and Chairman, the Political Economy Centre, Chulalongkorn University, since 1998.

Education

B.A. Economics (Hons.), Monash University, Australia.

M.A. Economics, Monash University, Australia.

Ph.D., Economics, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Experience

Teaching Fellow, Faculty of Economics, Monash University, 1970-1971.

Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, 1971-1973.

Part-time Teaching Fellow, University of Cambridge, 1978-1979.

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, 1979-1980.

Director of Economic Research Unit.

Expert, Development Economist, Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion, International Labour Office, Bangkok 1980-1984.

Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, since 1985.

Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

Director, Political Economy Centre, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University.

Professor of Economics and Chairman, the Political Economy Centre, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, 1988-1989.

Jackson Memorial Fellow, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, 2003.

Senior Visiting Researcher, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 2004-2005.

Walker Ames Visiting Professor, Graduate School, University of Washington, Seattle, 2005.

Visiting Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, 2006.

Annika Sundén

Personal data

Nationality: Sweden.

Date of birth: 1964.

Education

B.S. in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm.

M.S. in Labour Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Ph.D. in Labour Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Experience

Chief, Research Unit, Department of Research and Statistics, Swedish Social Insurance Agency, since 2006.

Chief of Staff, Social Insurance Committee, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2005-2006.

Adjunct Associate Professor, Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University, since 2004.

Senior Economist, Department of Research and Statistics, Swedish Social Insurance Agency, 2002-2006.

Associate Director for Research, Center for Retirement Research, Boston College, 1998-2002.

Economist, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D.C., 1994-1998.

Lecturer, Department of Labour Economics, Cornell University, 1993-1994.

Consultant, Public Sector Management Division, Latin America Technical Department, World Bank, 1993.

Researcher, Riksförsäkringsverket (National Social Insurance Board), 1987-1988.

Zenebeworke Tadesse

Personal data

Nationality: Ethiopia.

Date of birth: 1950.

Education

B.A. International Relations/Sociology, Barat College, Lake Forest, IL.

M.A. Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton.

Completed course work for Ph.D., Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton.

Experience

Since 1990

Managing Editor, Africa Review of Books.

Founder/Director of Publications/Gender Adviser, Forum for Social Studies.

Consultant, United Nations Development Programme.

International Team Leader, United Nations Development Programme (New York).

International Research Team Member, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Consultant, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Consultant, Africa Development Bank.

Principal Researcher, African Union.

Visiting Lecturer, African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Trainer, United Nations Population Fund.

National Consultant, Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation.

Researcher, Institute of Development Studies of the University of Helsinki.

Writer/researcher, Institute of Development Research (Boston).

Deputy Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (1986-1993).

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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2005 and 2006.

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in 2005 and 2006. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963, in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

UNRISD was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth".

During the current reporting period, several UNRISD projects were concluded, including two major initiatives: Social policy in a development context; and the UNRISD report entitled *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World*.

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A new phase of the research programme was initiated for the period 2005-2009, under which work focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and equity. Research is organized in six programme areas: social policy and development; democracy, governance and well-being; markets, business and regulation; civil society and social movements; identities, conflict and cohesion; and gender and development.

UNRISD issued 99 publications in 2005-2006. The Institute's website was redeveloped and positive growth trends in the number of visitors and full-text documents accessed indicate the importance of this mode of dissemination.

UNRISD core funding came from the voluntary contributions of six Governments in 2005 and 2006. The Institute also received project-specific contributions from the European Community, Governments, international agencies and foundations.

Of note on an institutional level during 2006 was an in-depth evaluation of the relevance, quality, impact and cost-effectiveness of UNRISD work for the period 1996-2005, carried out at the request of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2005 and 2006

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous research institute within the framework of the United Nations. It was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth" (see ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963).

2. In the 43 years since UNRISD was established, its work has been guided by a wide understanding of social development, as that which aims to enhance people's material well-being, social cohesion, participation and social justice. UNRISD has undertaken applied research and made findings accessible to policymakers and the international development community. The Institute has participated actively in global conferences and summits, sponsoring events to encourage dialogue among policymakers within the United Nations system and beyond, donors, scholars and civil society organizations.

3. UNRISD promotes a multidisciplinary approach to social development research and places particular emphasis on the social impacts of development policies and the multiple factors and contexts that shape decision-making processes. It does so through the projects it carries out under its research programme, through the organization of events and through an outreach strategy that includes dissemination of research findings via a variety of publications that target different audiences, and the UNRISD website.

4. Research is carried out in collaboration with networks involving researchers in universities and research non-governmental organizations around the world. The majority of the researchers are from and/or based in developing countries. During the reporting period, over 200 researchers participated in UNRISD programmes or contributed to UNRISD publications.

5. As of 31 October 2006, a total of 18 regular staff were employed in Geneva: 11 Professional and higher category staff members, including the Director and Deputy Director, and 7 support staff members. Young scholars also participate in the UNRISD programme of work as research assistants and interns, and during the reporting period, over 30 individuals from 20 countries contributed in this way to the work of the Institute.

6. In 2005, UNRISD initiated a new phase of its research programme (2005-2009). Research carried out under projects during the previous phase was concluded and new projects were in various phases of design and implementation. More information on research activities is presented in section III. Publications issued by UNRISD or in conjunction with commercial and academic presses during 2005-2006 are listed in the notes at the end of the report.

II. Evaluation of the work of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 1996-2005

7. UNRISD receives no funding from the regular United Nations budget and depends entirely on voluntary contributions from Member States, research foundations, United Nations agencies and other institutions, which periodically

conduct evaluations. Such an evaluation took place at the request of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency from April to September 2006. An evaluation team assessed the relevance, quality, impact and cost-effectiveness of the Institute's work for the period 1996-2005.

8. The evaluation found that UNRISD research has thematic cohesion and fosters an important interdisciplinary and cross-country comparative perspective. Research was found to be innovative at times, prepared to take on sensitive issues and important in stimulating debate and in mobilizing scholars from developing countries. According to the evaluation findings, UNRISD has promoted an alternative perspective and a different voice on development and has provided important inputs for the United Nations summit processes. On an institutional level, adequate quality control mechanisms were found to be in place, UNRISD was found to be cost-effective and its autonomy was found to be valuable and deserving of protection. Moreover, the evaluation found that UNRISD finances should be put on more secure and stable foundations and that overall funding should be increased.

9. While commending the Institute's impressive range and number of publications, the evaluation strongly recommended that UNRISD devote greater attention and effort to a dissemination strategy that would improve visibility and impact among certain constituencies. UNRISD recognizes the importance of taking steps to improve performance in this area and has undertaken a review of its dissemination activities. A revised strategy was being developed to reinforce mechanisms and redouble efforts to increase the visibility of UNRISD and impact of research results among key audiences.

III. Programme of research

A. 2005-2009 research agenda

10. UNRISD re-examines its research agenda periodically to ensure that projects are in line with contemporary development trends and concerns, that they form part of a coherent research strategy, and that they give attention to issues that are not being addressed adequately or sufficiently by other research networks associated with the United Nations system. In order to implement its research projects, the Institute must mobilize its own funding. It receives no money from the United Nations general budget and is funded exclusively by voluntary contributions from Member States, research foundations, United Nations agencies and other institutions.

11. Within the Institute's broad remit to conduct research on social development, the 2005-2009 research agenda focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and equity.[1] UNRISD is examining the relationships between social, economic and political dimensions of development, and ways in which improvements in social institutions, social relations and social welfare affect not only human well-being, but also economic development and democracy.

12. Research under the 2005-2009 agenda is organized in six programme areas: social policy and development; democracy, governance and well-being; markets, business and regulation; civil society and social movements; identities, conflict and cohesion; and gender and development.

B. Social policy and development

13. UNRISD defines social policy as public policies and institutions that aim to protect citizens from social contingencies and poverty, and ultimately to enable them to strive for their own life goals. The research projects carried out under this programme explore the ways in which social policy can be a powerful instrument for democratic progress and economic development while, at the same time, pursuing intrinsic goals such as social protection and justice.

14. Four projects were in their concluding phase and three new ones were initiated in 2005-2006.

Social policy in a development context

15. This project, carried out from 2000 to 2005, involved approximately 140 researchers and explored a State-society nexus that is developmental, democratic and socially inclusive. There were nine subprojects divided into two strands of research, regional and thematic. By 2005 all research had been completed in the regional subprojects (East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, the Nordic countries and sub-Saharan Africa) and thematic subprojects (pro-poor macroeconomics, gender dimensions, democratization, commercialization of health care and water privatization). In 2005-2006, work focused on revision of manuscripts, publication and dissemination activities. Twelve publications were issued in 2005-2006.[2]

16. This research has yielded a number of insights into policy and institutional arrangements conducive to well-being and equality. For example, the prevailing view that social policy in developing countries should focus on the protection of vulnerable groups and poverty reduction is too narrow. As a key instrument for social and economic development as well as national cohesion, social policy should also be concerned with redistribution, production and reproduction. The contemporary preference for "targeting" social policy in developing countries is problematic, owing to often-limited administrative capacity and the fact that setting up institutions for targeting can undermine those designed for universal provision. Labour market policies are not simply instruments for the static efficient allocation of existing labour resources; they constitute an important arena for addressing issues of poverty, the realization of basic civil and social rights, and economic development. Education and health policies or land reform, for example, can serve a protective role and also contribute to both equity and growth. Of crucial importance is the need for policy coherence and the exploitation of synergies among different areas of the economy. Such synergistic relationships are not automatic, however. They require conscious design of both economic and social policies.

17. This research has attracted wide attention. For example, findings fed into a conference organized by the United Nations Children's Fund in Nepal in May 2006 of regional organizations and policymakers examining how social policy enhances Millennium Development Goal performance and contributes to equitable development. UNRISD work also featured prominently in the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Governments of Argentina and Uruguay in February 2006, in which Ministers of Social Development from 13 countries participated.

Politics and political economy of HIV/AIDS

18. This research, which concluded in 2005, addressed frequently overlooked aspects of HIV/AIDS related to political economy factors. History is crucial for understanding how decades of public health initiatives have shaped capacities and knowledge to respond to the epidemic. Political factors and dynamics related to structural conditions and self-interest are also important in determining the timing and form of responses at the local, national and global levels. Activists need to be more concerned about long-term strategizing to exert pressure on and influence key decision-makers, and to reveal ways in which political interests can be advanced through care and prevention strategies. Policymakers should be aware of the relationship between HIV/AIDS, changing structural conditions and macroeconomic policies that impact development and poverty. However, most Governments have yet to reshape development plans and programmes to account for changes in skilled labour, employment and economic conditions. Four of the commissioned studies were published as Programme Papers.[3]

Community responses to HIV/AIDS

19. This project aimed to inform policy and programme development, particularly within State and civil society, on equitable and effective support to the community level in the prevention of risk of HIV and in mitigating the impacts of AIDS. Papers commissioned in 2004 were completed and, following receipt of new funding, three additional studies were commissioned on the Congo, Thailand and Haiti. All research was completed in 2006. A workshop was held in September 2005, with invited participants from United Nations agencies, countries where the research had been carried out, academic and research institutions and civil society. The collection of studies was accepted for publication as a supplement of the journal *AIDS Care* (forthcoming (2007)).

Commercialization, privatization and universal access to water

20. This project, which concluded in 2005, explored different experiences of water service provision, focusing in particular on those involving active private sector participation. The project aimed to clarify the nature of the "efficiency and equity" trade-off apparently affecting the provision of water services in developing countries and to identify the institutional constraints to achieving universal access to water. Two studies commissioned under the project were published as Programme Papers[4] and the one on Argentina was forthcoming. An edited volume was being prepared. A new project, "Social policy, regulation and private sector involvement in water supply" (under the programme area "Markets, business and regulation") was carried out as follow-up to this project.

Poverty reduction and policy regimes

21. This flagship project (2005-2009) will contribute to debates and policy on poverty reduction by examining the role of social policy and the relationships among various types of policy regimes and institutions. Through this research, UNRISD aims to contribute to a better understanding of the necessity of policy coherence and to identify ways in which policies and institutions might work more synergistically to promote inclusive and equitable development. In 2005-2006, background documents were prepared in order to select eight countries/economies

for further study, terms of reference for the researchers were finalized and coordinators for the case studies were identified, as were scholars working on policy regimes and poverty reduction, who will be invited to the project's first workshop in early 2007. Countries that will be the subject of overview papers were also identified.

22. The findings of this research will feed into a report on poverty to be published by UNRISD in 2009. A draft outline of the report was prepared and revised, and the structure and chapter outlines of the report were identified.

Social policy index

23. Preliminary work was carried out on the construction of a social policy index. Of potential use to experts, policymakers and the general public, the social policy index is an input index measuring each country's priorities in terms of social policy. Data on social spending (education, health, housing and sanitation, social security) and taxation for over 130 countries were gathered. The index will also include indicators of social security and institutional efficiency. An issues paper was prepared and will provide the basis for discussion during a workshop to be held in December 2006.

Financing social policy

24. This project began in 2006. Research will examine the financial options for developing countries that aim to implement social policies in order to move towards societies that are economically productive, democratically anchored and socially inclusive; the role of external actors, policy models and ideologies; how vertical and horizontal inequalities are addressed through revenue and expenditure structures; and specific challenges to financing social policies for crisis States and (post-) conflict societies. Sub-projects will also deal with issues of taxation, social security, pension funds, mineral rents and remittances.

25. A background paper outlining the broad framework for research activities and an annotated bibliography were prepared, and research collaborators and paper writers were being identified.

C. Democracy, governance and well-being

26. During 2005-2006, there was a transition to this new programme on democracy, governance and well-being, under which research seeks to understand the constraints that new democracies face in improving citizens' livelihoods, social services and social protection.

27. One project from the previous reporting period was in its concluding stages, and two new projects were being developed.

Ethnic structure, inequality and governance of the public sector

28. This research, carried out between 2002 and 2004, examined how ethnic cleavages and inequalities affect the constitution and management of the public sectors of 15 multi-ethnic democracies. Researchers collected data on the civil service, Cabinet, Parliament and party system, examined the rules that determined selection to these institutions, analysed whether the distribution of offices is

ethnically balanced or uneven and studied voter preferences in constituting these institutions. Work during the reporting period focused on processing case-study manuscripts for publication. Three books, three Programme Papers and one issue of *Conference News* were published.[5] The book on Trinidad and Tobago was the next title forthcoming in the series of 11 volumes being co-published with Palgrave Macmillan. An article entitled "Ethnic inequalities in the public sector: a comparative analysis" was published in the journal *Development and Change* in March 2006.

New research areas

29. In 2006, background work was carried out in view of developing new projects on organized groups and welfare development and politics of poverty reduction. These will provide inputs for the 2009 UNRISD report on poverty. The first project will examine the role of non-income factors related to social organization and mobilization, relations between interest groups and the welfare orientation of parties in Government in new middle-income democracies. The second project will examine the kinds of political incentives and arrangements that encourage low-income democracies to adopt pro-poor policies, focusing in particular on the sources, fluctuating levels and composition of public expenditures; governance conditionalities attached to external financing of anti-poverty strategies; and policy outcomes.

D. Markets, business and regulation

30. This new programme, developed during 2005 and 2006, examines three key areas: privatization and commercialization of public services; organized business and development policy; and business and poverty reduction. Case studies carried out under previous work on corporate social and environmental responsibility in developing countries were completed.

Social policy, regulation and private sector involvement in water supply

31. This project, carried out in 2005 and 2006, used statistical and econometric modelling to investigate the impact of private sector participation on access and affordability to water and sanitation services, especially for the poor. Seven case studies (Brazil; Burkina Faso; Colombia; England, Scotland and Wales; France; Hungary; and Malaysia) were carried out. The research findings reveal no pronounced difference between public and private provision in terms of access and affordability and point to the crucial role of social policies in ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to affordable and safe water. This is especially true for developing countries, where regulation may be difficult or ineffective. A methodology workshop was held in Geneva in September 2005 and the research findings were discussed at a multi-stakeholder meeting held in September 2006. An edited volume was being prepared, to be co-published in 2007 with Palgrave Macmillan.

Corporate social and environmental responsibility in developing countries

32. From 2001 to 2005, UNRISD carried out research on corporate social responsibility, and on market and business regulation. This work has documented

the contribution of voluntary initiatives, non-governmental or multi-stakeholder institutions and public-private partnerships. It cautions, however, that the dominant corporate social and environmental responsibility agenda has often ignored key developmental and regulatory issues. The participation of various developing country interests in consultative and decision-making processes associated with corporate social and environmental responsibility initiatives needs to be enhanced, public-private partnerships should be better integrated with developing country strategies and public policy frameworks, and there is considerable scope for greater complementarity of voluntary and legalistic, or new and traditional, regulatory approaches and institutions.

33. Three Programme Papers were published,[6] and the country report on South Africa was finalized and accepted for publication by the University of KwaZulu Natal Press (forthcoming (2007)). Research findings were disseminated through several events, including workshops and conferences organized by the European Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Helsinki Process and the Global Compact Learning Forum, as well as in three journals.

Organized business and development policy

34. Preparatory work was carried out in 2006 in view of developing a new project that will examine the role of business associations and other organized business interests in shaping government policy and models of development. The research will address two main questions. First, in a context where the international development community is calling on the private sector to support pro-poor growth and socially responsible enterprise, what role are business associations playing in this process? The second concerns the conditions under which social pacts involving State, business and other non-State actors, which are conducive to inclusive development, might re-emerge or be strengthened, and the role of business organizations in such processes.

Business and poverty reduction

35. Considerable efforts have been under way in recent years to engage the private sector, in general, and transnational corporations, in particular, in the mainstream poverty reduction agenda of the international development community. This project, which began in 2006, is studying the actual or potential contribution of companies via public-private partnerships, differential pricing, poverty-targeted philanthropy, ethical and fair trade, corporate social welfare, community projects, microfinance, and upstream and downstream linkages with microenterprises and the informal sector. A workshop on public-private partnerships for sustainable development, co-hosted with the Copenhagen Business School, was held in August 2006, and the first of three Programme Papers was published.[7]

E. Civil society and social movements

36. Under this programme, UNRISD has been exploring the complexities and potential for change inherent in global movements concerned with contemporary patterns of development and globalization. Under the 2005-2009 research agenda, research will be carried out on civil society activism against socio-economic

inequalities and deprivation; the evolution of global contestation, participants and movements; the interactions between policymaking processes and social activist movements; and the tension and potential intrinsic in broad-based alliances and institutional reform.

37. Two projects were ongoing under this programme in 2005-2006 and research was initiated in one new area.

United Nations world summits and civil society engagement

38. Civil society engagement with mainstream development institutions has increased substantially in recent years, and this has been particularly apparent in relation to the United Nations summits and conferences on global development issues since the early 1990s. This project, which commenced in 2003, has focused on the extent to which such events have been meaningful mechanisms and created favourable political space for increased civil society activism and advocacy.

39. In the 2005-2006 period, research teams completed analysis of data, survey results and other related documentary sources. The case studies on Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Africa and Senegal were completed, and the one on Chile was in the final stages. A paper on civil society and United Nations summits with a special focus on food and agriculture was also completed and a project synthesis volume was being prepared. An international colloquium was held in February 2006 to discuss the research findings.

40. Insights from this project and other work on civil society and social movements fed into a special journal issue on financial autonomy in social action, which was published in 2006.[8] Two Programme Papers were published and a Research and Policy Brief was forthcoming.[9]

Global civil society movements: dynamics in international campaigns and national implementation

41. This project began in 2004 and has looked at how global civil society movements actually fare in national and local contexts. Movements related to debt relief, international trade rules, global taxation, anti-corruption and fair trade/solidarity economy were assessed. The main activities included the preparation of a series of background and thematic papers, and case studies in five countries. Eight Programme Papers were published in 2005-2006 based on the background and thematic papers.[10] Case studies in Argentina, Bolivia, the Philippines, Senegal and Turkey are nearing completion and a multi-stakeholder dissemination meeting was being planned to coincide with the World Social Forum in January 2007.

Social responses to inequalities and policy changes

42. This research project was developed in 2006 and is being carried out as part of a research network of seven European universities, jointly with the programme on markets, business and regulation. The project examines the nature of social contestation, activism and policy change related to a number of areas of macroeconomic policy and institutional reform. These include development aid, debt relief, trade and subsidy policy, privatization, corporate malpractice and corporate accountability. As this project is part of a pan-European programme of

research, the initial focus is on the activist-policy nexus in the United Kingdom and France. Two methodology and implementation meetings were held, in Rome and in Istanbul, in 2006.

F. Identities, conflict and cohesion

43. Identities affect patterns of exclusion and solidarity, and provide a basis for both social cohesion and conflict. This programme aims to assess how processes of development and social change, as well as public policies, shape identities. The programme focuses on the concepts of difference, citizenship and accommodation to stress the complexity of ethnic and national identities and reveal how such identifications evolve over time and are reconfigured by political and economic changes.

44. In the 2005-2006 period, four new projects were being developed.

Identity, power and the rights of indigenous peoples

45. This project examines the structure and interlocking nature of States, international organizations and transnational corporations, and analyses how these links impact on the identity, rights and livelihood of indigenous communities. A project proposal was prepared and accepted for funding, and work commenced with a methodology workshop in July 2006.

Religion, identity and business

46. This project will examine the impact of religious groups on multi-ethnic societies, by assessing whether the proselytization activities of these communities inevitably lead to social fragmentation and polarization, or if they can be a force for positive or progressive change in society. A project proposal was prepared and submitted to donors for funding.

Affirmative action, identity and conflict

47. This project will examine the outcomes of certain public policies introduced to reduce poverty. Proponents of "horizontal" policies argue that social and economic differences can be resolved by targeting those ethnic groups that are most in need of help. This project will study whether such an approach can be successful, or whether such policies may actually reinforce racial identities, thus consolidating and perpetuating ethnic differences that can, in the long term, hinder social cohesion. A project proposal was being prepared.

Minority groups, generational change and identity formation

48. This project will examine conflict involving young minorities in multi-ethnic societies. It aims to understand how processes of development, social change and public policies shape and influence identities and impact on social marginality, inequality and conflict. A project proposal was being prepared.

49. A manuscript based on a conference entitled "Ethnicity, Equity and the Nation: the State, Development and Identity in Multi-ethnic Societies", convened in Kuala Lumpur in August 2005, was completed and submitted for publication by Palgrave Macmillan.

G. Gender and development

50. For 2005-2009, projects on gender have been consolidated in this new programme. Gender inequalities in power are a persistent and integral feature of the modern world and its institutions — whether markets and macroeconomic flows; States, political parties and social movements; or the intimate sphere of family, household and community.

51. In 2005-2006, the main area of work under this programme involved the publication and dissemination of an UNRISD policy report on gender and development. Two new projects were also developed.

Gender equality: striving for justice in an unequal world

52. During the current reporting period, *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World* was published in Arabic, English, French and Spanish and 15 Occasional Papers were published.[11] The Chinese version of the report was under preparation. The English version of the report was launched in parallel with the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2005. UNRISD held other dissemination events at the Ford Foundation in New York, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Stockholm, the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, the African Gender Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, the Graduate Institute for Development Studies in Geneva, the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social, the United Nations Population Fund and the Argentine Congress in Buenos Aires, and the Town Hall of Paris. The research coordinator also presented the report at various externally organized conferences, seminars and meetings.

53. The UNRISD report has, in the words of one journal reviewer, provided "the most penetrating political economy analysis of the struggle for gender equality and women's rights". The report is being used in academic, media and policymaking circles. It has been commended in refereed journals, including *International Feminist Journal of Politics* (vol. 8, No. 3, 2006), *The European Journal of Development Research* (vol. 18, No. 1, 2006), and *Population and Development Review* (vol. 31, 2005). Within the United Nations system, UNRISD contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on women in development (A/60/162) and the UNRISD gender report is cited two times therein. The UNRISD gender report is also cited once in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/60/165); and twice by the Division for the Advancement of Women in the outcome document of an expert group meeting, entitled "Enhancing Participation of Women in Development through an Enabling Environment for Achieving Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women". Media coverage of the report includes *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (16 September and 6 November 2006), *Le Courrier* (17 January 2006), *Tribune de Genève* (17 January 2006), *Clarín* (12 May 2006) and *Buenos Aires Herald* (12 May 2006). The UNRISD report is on university reading lists in North America (Carleton University (Canada), Rice University, Tennessee State University, University of North Carolina, University of Washington, University of California-Davis (United States)); Europe (London School of Economics, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom), Università degli Studi di Bari and University of Modena (Italy)); and Africa (University of Ibadan (Nigeria)). The report is also being used in the preparation of a national Government gender and governance training course.

Political and social economy of care

54. A gender division of labour permeates the key institutions that organize care work: the family, the market, the public sector and the voluntary sector. Care work is interlinked with poverty and social exclusion. Responsibilities for the provision of unpaid care often limit the kind of paid work that the carer can undertake to jobs with low pay and few social protection provisions. Many families and individuals needing care suffer from poverty owing to the costs associated with purchasing it. And paid forms of care work tend to be low-status and low-paid. Legitimization of care — both recognition and valorization, whereby care work is not just regarded as a good for society, but policies are put in place to value it — can be effective means of fighting poverty and social exclusion. This research seeks to understand the public policy responses to the need for caring services, and the policy drivers.

55. A project proposal was prepared and funding secured. A research network composed of national research teams and an international advisory group was being put together. The first project workshop was scheduled for November 2006.

Religion-based politics and gender equality

56. This project will explore the social and political implications of religion assuming prominent and contested public and political roles, especially as far as democratic pluralism, gender equality and women's rights are concerned. A research proposal was completed and contacts were initiated with potential donors.

IV. Advisory work

57. UNRISD staff members are frequently called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities. This provides UNRISD with opportunities to make substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups based on the Institute's own expertise and research findings. During the reporting period, UNRISD staff members carried out advisory and consultancy activities on nearly 100 occasions.

V. Outreach: publications and dissemination

58. Through its outreach activities, UNRISD communicates the results of its research to the academic community, policymakers at the international, regional, national and local levels; civil society and the non-governmental sector; and the general and specialized media. The Institute uses a range of outputs relevant for and accessible to an ever-expanding audience. In-house publications, co-publications with internationally renowned publishers and the UNRISD website are the main outputs.

59. UNRISD issued 99 publications in 2005-2006: 15 books,[12] 48 Programme Papers,[13] 15 Occasional Papers,[14] four reports (one each in Arabic, English, French and Spanish),[15] 11 Research and Policy Briefs (three in English, four in French and four in Spanish),[16] two issues of *Conference News*,[17] three issues of *UNRISD News* (one in English, one in French and one in Spanish)[18] and its research agenda document (see footnote 1).

60. Research results were disseminated via the Institute's publications; in targeted mailings to a wide range of constituencies; through conferences, seminars and workshops organized by UNRISD and other institutions; in articles and interviews in specialized journals and general media outlets; through the participation of UNRISD staff in public events and via the UNRISD website.

61. In August 2006, UNRISD launched a redeveloped website (www.unrisd.org) — the fourth version of the site since 1996. It includes new features, such as RSS feeds, and has a new graphic design. Website statistics for January-December 2005 and January-October 2006 show, respectively, an average of 23,407 and 30,355 unique visitors per month. Particularly satisfying are the data on the numbers of full-text documents accessed, which increased to 133,780 in 2005. This number of downloads was reached in the first six months of 2006, with the total number of downloads for January-October exceeding 200,000. Over 10,000 publications were delivered via e-mail to users who chose this option. On average, 10 E-mail Alerts were released each month. On 1 January 2005, there were 4,520 subscribers registered for the UNRISD E-mail Alerts service and that number grew to 7,651 by October 2006.

62. From January 2005 to October 2006, UNRISD disseminated over 28,000 publications to 74 events in 35 countries around the world. These represented important opportunities to promote the visibility of the Institute at carefully targeted international and local events.

63. The future strategy for UNRISD dissemination will take note of the recommendation of the 2006 evaluation that these activities be strengthened in order to improve performance. Several key areas are being addressed in the new strategy, including formal procedures for outreach that are adapted to specific constituencies; increasing the frequency of publication of Research and Policy Briefs; building on the success of outreach via the UNRISD website; enhancing collaboration with co-publishers and continuing efforts to make books more affordable; revamping *UNRISD News*; making CD-ROMs a regular dissemination mechanism; designing and implementing a communication strategy for the 2009 UNRISD report on poverty; revisiting UNRISD mailing lists to achieve coherence and implementing systems to ensure long-term viability; and improving tracking, follow-up and data-gathering in support of evidence-based reporting requirements, focusing on achievements and contributions.

VI. Research assistants and interns

64. Young scholars participate in the UNRISD programme of work as research assistants and as interns, with interns spending two to three months (on average) at UNRISD, and research assistants a maximum of two years. They assist research coordinators in developing project proposals, compiling annotated bibliographies and data, and organizing research seminars and conferences. In the past two years, they also authored and co-authored papers, prepared, reported on and participated in conferences and carried out translation work. During the reporting period, over 30 research assistants and interns contributed to the work of UNRISD. They came from Angola, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

VII. Financial situation

65. The level of core funding received by the Institute for 2005 was US$ 2,645,695 and has been estimated at $2,801,800 for 2006. A comparison of the core funding for 2005 with that of 2004 reflects an increase of $204,887 and it is expected that there will be a further increase of $156,105 in 2006 as compared to 2005. The core income represents voluntary contributions made by six Governments in 2005 and 2006. The Institute also received contributions from the European Community, Governments, international agencies and foundations aimed at funding various projects. The level of such funding decreased from $1,438,560 in 2004 to $881,888 in 2005, while the funding pledged and due to be received in 2006 was $1,275,000. The main contributors to core funds were Sweden and the United Kingdom, making three-year pledges. Annual contributions to core funds were received from Finland, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland. Denmark made no contribution to core funds after 2004. During the reporting period, Sweden and Switzerland also provided project funding, while other major project-specific contributions were received from the European Community, the International Development Research Centre (Canada), the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Ford Foundation and the United Nations Foundation.

66. Consolidated figures presented in the table below indicate that total UNRISD funding for 2006 has been estimated at $4,076,800, which represents an increase of 16 per cent with respect to 2005 and 5 per cent in relation to 2004.

UNRISD funding 2004-2006
(In United States dollars)

	2004	*2005*	*2006 (estimated)*
Core	2 440 808	2 645 695	2 801 800
Project	1 438 560	881 888	1 275 000
Total	**3 879 368**	**3 527 583**	**4 076 800**

Notes

[1] UNRISD, *Social Development Research at UNRISD, 2005-2009*, Geneva, 2006.

[2] Six books: Giovanni Andrea Cornia (ed.), Shahra Razavi and Shireen Hassim (eds.), Massoud Karshenas and Valentine M. Moghadam (eds.), Maureen Mackintosh and Meri Koivusalo (eds.), Olli Kangas and Joakim Palme (eds.) and Huck-ju Kwon (ed.); Research and Policy Brief No. 5 and five Programme Papers on social policy and development (Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25).

[3] Programme Papers on social policy and development Nos. 24, 26, 28 and 30.

[4] Programme Papers on social policy and development Nos. 27 and 29.

[5] Three books: Niraja Gopal Jayal, Yusuf Bangura (ed.) and Florian Bieber; Programme Papers on democracy, governance and human rights Nos. 20, 22 and 24; and *Conference News* No. 16.

[6] Programme Papers on technology, business and society Nos. 15, 16 and 18.

[7] Programme Paper on markets, business and regulation No. 1.

[8] *Funding Social Change* (special issue of the journal *Development*).

[9] Programme Papers on civil society and social movements Nos. 17 and 18; Research and Policy Brief No. 6.

[10] Programme Papers on civil society and social movements Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

[11] Gender Occasional Papers 1-15 (see note 14).

[12] **Books**

–Giovanni Andrea Cornia (ed.), *Pro-Poor Macroeconomics: Potential and Limitations*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Yusuf Bangura and George Larbi (eds.), *Public Sector Reform in Developing Countries: Capacity Challenges to Improve Services*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Niraja Gopal Jayal, *Representing India: Ethnic Diversity and the Governance of Public Institutions*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Yusuf Bangura (ed.), *Ethnic Inequalities and Public Sector Governance*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Shahra Razavi and Shireen Hassim (eds.), *Gender and Social Policy in a Global Context: Uncovering the Gendered Structure of "the Social"*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–*Funding Social Change*, special issue of the journal *Development*, vol. 49, No. 2, June 2006.

–Peter Utting, *Reclaiming Development Agendas*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Florian Bieber, *Post-War Bosnia: Ethnicity, Inequality and Public Sector Governance*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Massoud Karshenas and Valentine M. Moghadam (eds.), *Social Policy in the Middle East: Economic, Political, and Gender Dynamics*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

–Maureen Mackintosh and Meri Koivusalo (eds.), *Commercialization of Health Care: Global and Local Dynamics and Policy Responses*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

–K. B. Ghimire (ed.), *Civil Society and the Market Question*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

–Yusuf Bangura and Rodolfo Stavenhagen (eds.), *Racism and Public Policy*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

–Olli Kangas and Joakim Palme (eds.), *Social Policy and Economic Development in the Nordic Countries*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

–Ashok Swain (ed.), *Education as Social Action: Knowledge, Identity and Power*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

–Huck-ju Kwon (ed.), *Transforming the Developmental Welfare State in East Asia*, UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

[13] **Programme Papers on civil society and social movements**

No. 27 Heikki Patomäki, *Global Tax Initiatives: The Movement for the Currency Transaction Tax*, forthcoming December 2006.

No. 26 Nelson J. V. B. Querijero and Ronnie V. Amorado, *Transnational Civil Society Movements: The State of Anticorruption Efforts*, August 2006.

No. 25 Wendy Harcourt, *The Global Women's Rights Movement: Power Politics around the United Nations and the World Social Forum*, August 2006.

No. 24 Marco Giugni, Marko Bandler and Nina Eggert, *The Global Justice Movement: How Far Does the Classic Social Movement Agenda Go in Explaining Transnational Contention?*, June 2006.

No. 23 Catherine Agg, *Trends in Government Support for Non-Governmental Organizations: Is the "Golden Age" of the NGO Behind Us?*, June 2006.

No. 22 Alejandro Bendaña, *NGOs and Social Movements: A North-South Divide?*, June 2006.

No. 21 Donatella della Porta, *The Social Bases of the Global Justice Movement: Some Theoretical Reflections and Empirical Evidence from the First European Social Forum*, December 2005.

No. 20 Murat Yilmaz, *Le commerce équitable*, December 2005.

No. 19 Kléber B. Ghimire, *The Contemporary Global Social Movements*, August 2005.

No. 18 Mario Pianta, *UN World Summits and Civil Society: The State of the Art*, August 2005.

No. 17 Constanza Tabbush, *Civil Society in United Nations Conferences: A Literature Review*, August 2005.

No. 16, María Pilar García-Guadilla, *Environmental Movements, Politics and Agenda 21 in Latin America*, August 2005.

No. 15, Cyril I. Obi, *Environmental Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Political Ecology of Power and Conflict*, January 2005.

Programme Papers on democracy, governance and human rights

No. 24 Abdul Raufu Mustapha, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector in Nigeria*, November 2006.

No. 23 Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, *The Indian Parliament as an Institution of Accountability*, January 2006.

No. 22 Wolf Linder and Isabelle Steffen, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector in Switzerland*, January 2006.

No. 21 Thandika Mkandawire, *Disempowering New Democracies and the Persistence of Poverty*, January 2006.

No. 20 Khoo Boo Teik, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance in the Public Sector: Malaysian Experiences*, December 2005.

No. 19 Attila Ágh, Gabriella Ilonszki and András Lánczi, *Economic Policy Making and Parliamentary Accountability in Hungary*, November 2005.

No. 18 Francis Akindès and Victor Tapanou, *Le contrôle parlementaire de l'action gouvernementale en République du Bénin: une lecture sociologique*, October 2005.

No. 17 Zdenka Mansfeldová, *Economic Policy Making and Parliamentary Accountability in the Czech Republic*, October 2005.

Programme Papers on identities, conflict and cohesion

No. 11 Christopher Cramer, *Inequality and Conflict: A Review of an Age-Old Concern*, October 2005.

Programme Papers on Social Policy and Development

No. 30 Elisabete Inglesi with Ana Lucia Weinstein, Celi Denise Cavallari, Octavio Valente Junior and Glaury Coelho, *Implications of World Bank Financing for NGO and CBO Responses to HIV/AIDS in the South and Southeast of Brazil* [Portuguese version], forthcoming December 2006.

No. 29 María Angélica Alegría Calvo and Eugenio Celedón Cariola, *Historia del sector sanitario chileno: de la gestión estatal hasta el proceso de privatización*, forthcoming December 2006.

No. 28 Joseph Tumushabe, *The Politics of HIV/AIDS in Uganda*, August 2006.

No. 27 Laila Smith, *Neither Public Nor Private: Unpacking the Johannesburg Water Corporatization Model*, May 2006.

No. 26 Sandhya Srinivasan and Mini Sukumar, *Liberalization and HIV in Kerala*, April 2006.

No. 25 Olli E. Kangas, *Pensions and Pension Funds in the Making of a Nation-State and a National Economy*, March 2006.

No. 24 Carole J. L. Collins, *Mozambique's HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Grappling with Apartheid's Legacy*, February 2006.

No. 23 *Targeting and Universalism in Poverty Reduction*, Thandika Mkandawire, December 2005.

No. 22 Huck-ju Kwon, *Transforming the Developmental Welfare State in East Asia*, September 2005.

No. 21 Eliza W. Y. Lee, *The Politics of Welfare Developmentalism in Hong Kong*, August 2005.

No. 20 Manuel Barahona, Ludwig Güendel y Carlos Castro, *Política social y reforma social "a la tica": Un caso paradigmático de heterodoxia en el contexto de una economía periférica*, August 2005.

No. 19 Susy Giullari and Jane Lewis, *The Adult Worker Model Family, Gender Equality and Care: The Search for New Policy Principles, and the Possibilities and Problems of a Capabilities Approach*, April 2005.

No. 18 Nicola Yeates, *"Globalization" and Social Policy in a Development Context: Regional Responses*, April 2005.

Programme Papers on technology, business and society

No. 18 Atul Sood and Bimal Arora, *The Political Economy of Corporate Responsibility in India*, November 2006.

No. 17 Momar-Coumba Diop, *Technologies, Power and Society: An Overview*, September 2005.

No. 16 Contributors: Manuel Riesco, Gustavo Lagos and Marcos Lima, *The "Pay Your Taxes" Debate: Perspectives on Corporate Taxation and Social Responsibility in the Chilean Mining Industry*, September 2005.

No. 15 Peter Utting, *Rethinking Business Regulation: From Self-Regulation to Social Control*, September 2005.

Programme Papers on UNRISD overarching concerns

No. 11 John Toye and Richard Toye, *The World Bank as a Knowledge Agency*, November 2005.

No. 10 Andrea Cornwall and Karen Brock, *Beyond Buzzwords: "Poverty Reduction", "Participation" and "Empowerment" in Development Policy*, November 2005.

No. 9 Norman Girvan, *The Search for Policy Autonomy in the South: Universalism, Social Learning and the Role of Regionalism*, October 2005.

No. 8 Jan Aart Scholte, *The Sources of Neoliberal Globalization*, October 2005.

No. 7 John Quiggin, *Interpreting Globalization: Neoliberal and Internationalist Views of Changing Patterns of the Global Trade and Financial System*, October 2005.

No. 6 Roy Culpeper, *Approaches to Globalization and Inequality within the International System*, October 2005.

No. 5 Albert Berry, *Methodological and Data Challenges to Identifying the Impacts of Globalization and Liberalization on Inequality*, October 2005.

No. 4 Solon L. Barraclough, *In Quest of Sustainable Development*, September 2005.

Programme Papers on markets, business and regulation

No. 1 Peter Utting and Ann Zammit, *Beyond Pragmatism: Appraising UN-Business Partnerships*, October 2006.

[14] **Gender Occasional Papers**

No. 15 Maxine Molyneux and Shahra Razavi, *Beijing Plus 10: An Ambivalent Record on Gender Justice*, March 2006.

No. 14 Le Anh Tu Packard, *Gender Dimensions of Viet Nam's Comprehensive Macroeconomic and Structural Reform Policies*, February 2006.

No. 13 Onalenna Doo Selolwane, *Gendered Spaces in Party Politics in Southern Africa: Progress and Regress since Beijing 1995*, February 2006.

No. 12 Elissa Braunstein, *Foreign Direct Investment, Development and Gender Equity: A Review of Research and Policy*, January 2006.

No. 11 Keiko Yamanaka and Nicola Piper, *Feminized Migration in East and Southeast Asia: Policies, Actions and Empowerment*, December 2005.

No. 10 Binaifer Nowrojee, *"Your Justice Is Too Slow": Will the ICTR Fail Rwanda's Rape Victims?*, November 2005.

No. 9 Gita Sen, *Neolibs, Neocons and Gender Justice: Lessons from Global Negotiations*, September 2005.

No. 8 Jo Beall, *Decentralizing Government and Centralizing Gender in Southern Africa: Lessons from the South African Experience*, August 2005.

No. 7 Celestine Nyamu-Musembi, *For or Against Gender Equality? Evaluating the Post-Cold War "Rule of Law" Reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa*, August 2005.

No. 6 Monica Boyd and Deanna Pikkov, *Gendering Migration, Livelihood and Entitlements: Migrant Women in Canada and the United States*, July 2005.

No. 5 Amrita Basu, *Women, Political Parties and Social Movements in South Asia*, July 2005.

No. 4 Deniz Kandiyoti, *The Politics of Gender and Reconstruction in Afghanistan*, February 2005.

No. 3 Éva Fodor, *Women at Work: The Status of Women in the Labour Markets of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland*, February 2005.

No. 2 Ching Kwan Lee, *Livelihood Struggles and Market Reform: (Un)making Chinese Labour after State Socialism*, February 2005.

No. 1 Carmen Diana Deere, *The Feminization of Agriculture? Economic Restructuring in Rural Latin America*, February 2005.

[15] **Reports**

UNRISD, *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World*, 2005.

UNRISD, *Egalité des sexes: en quête de justice dans un monde d'inégalités*, 2005.

UNRISD, *Igualdad de género: la lucha por la justicia en un mundo desigual*, 2006.

UNRISD, *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World* (Arabic edition), 2006.

[16] **Research and Policy Briefs**

No. 6 *UN World Summits and Civil Society Engagement*, December 2006.

No. 5 *Transformative Social Policy: Lessons from UNRISD Research*, October 2006.

No. 4s *Reforma agraria e igualdad de género*, February 2006.

No. 4f *Réformes foncières et égalité des sexes*, February 2006.

No. 4 *Land Tenure Reform and Gender Equality*, December 2005.

No. 3f *Politiques de technocrates et contrôle démocratique*, May 2005.

No. 3s *Formulación tecnocrática de las políticas y rendición de cuentas en regímenes democráticos*, May 2005.

No. 2f *Le développement social et la "révolution de l'information"*, May 2005.

No. 2s *El desarollo social y la "revolución de la información"*, May 2005.

No. 1f *Responsabilité sociale et encadrement juridique des sociétés commerciales*, April 2005.

No. 1s *Responsabilidad social y regulación de las empresas*, April 2005.

[17] *Conference News*

No. 16 *Ethnic Inequalities and Public Sector Governance* (Report of the International Conference organized by UNRISD, the United Nations Development Programme, Latvia and the Latvian Ministry of Integration, 25-27 March 2004, Riga), 2006.

No. 15 *Understanding Informational Developments: A Reflection on Key Research Issues* (Report of the UNRISD Workshop, 26-27 September 2003, Geneva), 2005.

[18] *UNRISD News*, No. 27, March 2005; *UNRISD Infos*, No. 27, March 2005; *UNRISD Informa*, No. 27, March 2005.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to resolution 44/1 of the Commission for Social Development, covers some of the main global and regional developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. In the context of the changing age structure of the population, the report addresses a range of socio-economic issues such as the sustainability of social protection systems, older workers' participation in the labour market, approaches to adjusting health-care and social-care services, as well as issues of empowerment of older persons, including the protection of their rights, facilitation of their participation in society and promotion of positive and balanced images of ageing.

* E/CN.5/2007/1.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 44/1, the Commission for Social Development requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-fifth session, a report on major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002.[1] The present report has been prepared in response to that request and is intended to facilitate discussions by Member States on the challenges and opportunities of ageing — the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.[2]

2. Since the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Governments have introduced a wide range of measures aimed at addressing various challenges stemming from population ageing. Due to length limitations, the present report will highlight only some of the main developments in that area, on the basis of a variety of sources available to the Secretariat, including submissions received from the regional commissions and international experts in the area of ageing. The selected topics were not rated in the order of their national, regional or global priority, and the examples of policies and programmes in different countries and regions are given for illustrative purposes. Various examples of government policy responses to follow-up the Second World Assembly on Ageing can also be found in earlier reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly.[3]

3. The structure of the report is defined by the broad framework outlined in the Madrid Plan of Action and is anchored to issues having major significance for policymaking. Taking ongoing demographic change as its point of departure and as part of the background for analysis, the report highlights such issues as sustainability of social protection systems, older workers' participation in the labour market and emerging approaches to health-care and social-care services for older persons. Particular emphasis is given to the empowerment of older persons, including the protection of their rights, facilitation of their participation in society and promotion of positive and balanced images of ageing. The report also emphasizes the importance of ageing-related research and recent advances in that field. Conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis provided in the report are presented at the end.

II. Major developments in ageing and policy responses

4. Population ageing represents a major social achievement: the manifestation of progress and improvement in the human condition. It is also an issue of global concern that requires concerted, well-focused and forward-looking policy measures at the national, regional and international levels.

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 6* (E/2006/26), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

[3] See A/60/151 and A/61/167.

A. Demographic landscape

5. Demographic change is a slow process that can only be accurately observed over the course of decades. While the demographic picture of ageing has not changed significantly since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, several phenomena of population ageing and their implications are nonetheless worth observing.

6. World populations are continuing to age at an accelerated pace, with the median age projected to rise from its current 28 years to 38 years by 2050.[4] The share of the population aged 60 or above is expected to increase dramatically from its current level of 1 in 10 (10 per cent) to more than 1 in 5 (22 per cent) by 2050. In 2005, there were 672 million older persons; by 2050, that figure will have nearly tripled to about 2 billion. Overall world population is growing at a rate of 1.2 per cent annually, whereas the population of older persons is growing at 2 per cent per year, and will increase to a growth rate of 3.1 per cent annually during the period 2010-2015. The fastest growing segment of the older population is that of persons 80 years or older, the "oldest old", with their rate increasing by 4.2 per cent annually. Moreover, the number of persons aged 100 years or older is projected to increase by a factor of 13, from about 287,000 in 2006 to 3.7 million by 2050. These changing demographics are also bringing about changes in the perceptions of who is to be considered an "older person", leading countries to differentiate between categories of older persons.

7. Older women continue to outnumber older men, as the life expectancy for women is greater than that for men. There were 67 million more women than men over the age of 60 in 2005, and the gender gap widens with age. There are nearly twice as many women over 80 as men, and more than four of five persons aged 100 or more are women. The feminization of ageing presents some major challenges for policymaking, as in many developing countries, a higher proportion of older women than older men are single, outside the labour force and illiterate.[5]

8. While birth rates continue to decline, longevity continues to increase. Global life expectancy increased 17.9 years for men and 19.7 years for women over the second half of the twentieth century to reach an average of 66 years. Contrary to popular perceptions, the increases in life expectancy have been more pronounced in developing rather than in developed regions. Even in the least developed regions of the world, significant gains in longevity have been achieved, as men and women can expect to live an average of 15 years longer than they did 50 years ago. Due to a combination of differences in fertility rates and life expectancy, population ageing is more pronounced in certain regions than in others. Whereas 1 in 5 Europeans (20.7 per cent) is aged 60 or over, only 1 in 20 Africans (5.2 per cent) falls into that age category. The differences can be attributed to variations in life expectancy at birth, which in 2000-2005 ranged from a low of 49.1 years in Africa to a high of 77.6 years in North America — a difference of 28.5 years. The gap is expected to

[4] The data in this section are derived from recent United Nations publications, including *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, Population Challenges and Development Goals* and *Population Ageing 2006*.

[5] See for example Ghazy Mujahid, "Population ageing in East and South-East Asia: current situation and emerging challenges", United Nations Population Fund, *Papers in Population Ageing*, No. 1 (July 2006).

close markedly, however, as projections for 2045-2050 show life expectancy at birth rising to 65.4 years in Africa and 82.7 years in North America, for a difference of 17.3 years.

9. In the remaining regions of the world, differences in population ageing will have largely disappeared by 2050, as a similar share of the populations in Asia, Latin America, North America and Oceania will be over age 60, ranging from 23.6 per cent in Asia to 27 per cent in North America. Despite the aforementioned progress in closing regional gaps, Africa and Europe will remain outliers, as 10 per cent of Africans will be over 60 by 2050, compared to 34.5 per cent of Europeans. Africa is expected to lag behind other regions in population ageing, in part due to the impact of HIV/AIDS, while Europe is expected to exceed other regions in the ageing of its population, due largely to the rapid decline in fertility rates.

10. Overall, however, the rate of population ageing is accelerating in developing countries, which will thus have less time to adapt to the impending changes. The old-age dependency ratio (the ratio of older persons per 100 adults of working age) could double in 50 years in some developing countries, whereas it took 150 to 200 years for it to double in developed countries. In developing regions, the number of persons aged 60 or over is expected to increase by a factor of 4 from 2000 to 2050, compared to an increase by a factor of 1.7 in developed regions. Likewise, the old-age dependency ratio is expected to triple from 2000 to 2050 in less developed regions and to double in more developed ones.

B. Towards sustainable systems of social protection

11. Widespread global inequality in the availability of and access to social protection in old-age and pension programmes continues. While developed countries tend to offer universal social protection programmes, which provide basic health care and income security for all those reaching a statutory retirement age, most developing countries fall far short of universal coverage. Although efforts are under way to extend social protection to a wider range of old-age recipients throughout the developing world, progress remains slow and modest.

12. At the same time, Member States are adjusting their social protection policies to account for demographic ageing, though most policy changes have not taken the form of large-scale cutbacks in benefits or the dismantling of public programmes. On the contrary, many developed countries have introduced reforms and made adjustments to their pension and health-care programmes aimed at achieving financial stability and ensuring that programmes continue to deliver to future generations. Those countries have also taken steps to discourage early retirement and to motivate people to work longer. In a small but encouraging number of developing countries, "social pensions" have been introduced to ensure that a minimum subsistence income is paid to low-income older persons.

13. Cost considerations are typically cited as the main reason why lower-income countries have not been able to launch universal social protection schemes. The prevailing presumption that social protection is unaffordable for low-income countries has, however, been strongly challenged in recent years, particularly in recent studies by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which demonstrate that basic non-contributory pensions and health care can be delivered at low per

capita GDP levels.[6] Adding to the momentum is a growing movement in some key donor countries to help fund the establishment of social protection programmes, viewed as a basic right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also argued that social protection formed part of the foundation for the growing prosperity of many now wealthy developed countries.[7]

14. With a majority of people in some countries working in the informal economy, there are significant obst cles to establishing, funding and maintaining traditional contributory pension pr mmes. Since many workers are unable to contribute to and take part in them, ne programmes tend to perpetuate — and sometimes exacerbate — existing inequalities. Meaningful reforms of pension systems are aimed at eliminating regressive financing mechanisms and developing an income source to subsidize a non-contributory safety net for the poor and near-poor, who are unable to contribute to a pay-as-you-go scheme. A key social protection instrument that has thus emerged is the "social" (non-contributory) pension. Provided at a relatively small percentage of total GDP (about 2 per cent), social pensions have been very effective in reducing poverty among older persons and their families. Given the growing recognition of the importance of social protection programmes in combating poverty and exclusion among older persons, a number of developing countries have undertaken initiatives to establish universal social pension plans (for example, in Botswana, Brazil, Mauritius, Nepal and South Africa).[8]

15. In March 2006, the African Union and the Government of Zambia, assisted by HelpAge International, organized a regional conference for East and Southern Africa on cash transfers as a social protection instrument. The resulting Livingstone Declaration, endorsed by 13 countries, called for African Governments to put together, within three years, costed national cash transfer plans that were integrated into national development plans and within national budgets, and that development partners could supplement. Progress on that front had already been seen in Lesotho, one of the world's poorest countries in terms of per capita income, through the introduction in 2004 of a universal old-age pension for citizens over the age of 70, thus joining a group of southern African countries offering significant benefits to their older populations.

16. In Asia, Bangladesh has continued to develop its old-age allowance and widow's allowance programmes, encouraged by pressure from older citizens groups monitoring those benefits. Thailand is taking concrete steps to increase the coverage of a welfare scheme, under which 70 per cent of all eligible older persons are entitled to receive a specific monthly allowance.[9] The successful institution of the programmes demonstrates what is possible if political impetus is given to social protection programmes.

17. In developed countries, the main trends have involved ways to rein in mounting liabilities for social protection programmes. One such trend entails raising

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[6] See for example International Labour Organization, "Can low income countries afford basic social protection? First results of a modeling exercise", *Issues in Social Protection*, No. 13 (June 2005).

[7] See International Labour Organization, "Social security for all: investing in global social and economic development" *Issues in Social Protection*, No. 16 (August 2006).

[8] HelpAge International, "Why social pensions are needed now", *Briefing on social pensions* (October 2006).

[9] See Mujahid, loc. cit.

the age at which a person becomes eligible for retirement benefits, in recognition of the steady increase in life expectancy over the past decades. The median pensionable age in 2002 for women in 23 high-income Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries was 60. Based on legislation in effect in 2004, however, by 2035 the median pensionable age will rise to 65. Overall, by 2035, 15 of the 23 OECD countries will have a social security pensionable age of 65 or higher for men and 14 of them will have pensionable ages of 65 or higher for women.[10] Although the changes may appear incremental, they are remarkable, considering the historical pattern of long periods (nearly a century in some cases), during which there was little or no change in the pension age despite marked increases in longevity.

18. A new trend to emerge is for countries to index their social security programmes to changes in demography: either changes in life expectancy or changes in the old-age dependency ratio. The trend is apparent in changes in life expectancy in countries adopting notional defined contribution plans, such as Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Sweden.[11] The plans are social security old-age benefit schemes in which each worker has an individual account, even though the system as a whole is financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. For each retirement cohort, the amount of benefits is gradually adjusted downward to take into account the long-term trend towards greater life expectancy. Finland has adopted a proposal for life expectancy indexing of benefits, but it has not yet taken effect. The trend can also be witnessed in such countries as Germany and Japan, which are adopting indexing mechanisms that take changes in the old-age dependency ratio into account.

C. Labour markets and older workers

19. The ageing of the population has major implications for the labour force and the status of older workers. Developed countries, countries with economies in transition and developing countries with low fertility rates will be the most affected by the ageing of the workforce. Whereas in the past there was a tendency among those countries to encourage older workers to leave the labour force through early retirement in order to make room for the growing numbers of younger workers, the trend is now shifting. Concerns over pension liabilities, mounting old-age dependency ratios, impending skills gaps and potential labour-force shortages have created a momentum towards the elimination of mandatory retirement ages and the extension of the number of working years.

20. There has been a significant trend in recent years towards forestalling early retirement. During the 1980s and 1990s, many employers resorted to the use of early retirement schemes as a more benign way of handling the restructuring or downsizing of their workforces. Workers over 50 were typically offered cash or benefit incentives if they voluntarily retired from their jobs. The problem with that approach, however, was that some of the most skilled and experienced workers left the workforce prematurely, and at times without any particular gains for younger

[10] John Turner, "In brief: social security pensionable age in OECD countries: 1949-2035", *AARP Research Report* (October 2005).

[11] Alan J. Auerbach and Ronald Lee, "Notional defined contribution pension systems in a stochastic context: design and stability", Washington, D.C., 10 and 11 August 2006.

entrants to the job market.[12] Moreover, employers ended up solving a short-term problem by creating a long-term liability in their pension plans, a matter that has become more pronounced as longevity rates continue to climb.

21. The push for labour market reform and efforts to increase the number of older workers and promote their employability are more pronounced in some regions than in others. In the European region, for example, the primary concern is to reverse the trend towards early retirement. The average labour-force participation rate for men aged from 55 to 64 in Europe was just 53 per cent in 2005, well below the global average of 74 per cent.[13] Governments are now considering initiatives to encourage workers to remain in the labour force so that the effective retirement age is more closely in line with the statutory retirement age, which tends to be 65 years in many European countries.

22. Labour-force participation rates fall dramatically for those aged 65 and over, although regional variations are considerable. For European men, who generally acquire pension entitlements upon reaching 65, the labour-force participation rate is about 8 per cent, in stark contrast to those of other regions, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the labour-force participation rate of men 65 and over is 57, 37 and 38 per cent, respectively. The difference is probably attributable to the lack of pension plans or other income support programmes for older persons in those regions, thereby making retirement an unattainable luxury for them. Regional differences are also quite substantial, although less pronounced, for women, ranging from a low of 4 per cent in Europe to a high of 26 per cent in Africa, 13 per cent in Asia and 14 per cent in Latin America.

23. Another significant labour-market trend is the increasing demand for long-term care workers to provide care to the ageing population, accompanied by an opposing trend that sees more women entering the labour market and therefore not available to provide unpaid care at home. At the moment, the migration of health professionals and care workers from developing to developed countries is helping to meet the rising demand for care workers. Such a situation has both positive and negative consequences for sending countries: an increase in foreign remittances, for example, but also a loss of workers during their most productive years. In the future, however, as population ageing becomes more evident in developing countries, migration patterns will have to change, otherwise older persons could be left behind in home countries without any family members remaining as their caregivers.

24. Some developed market economies, such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States, have eliminated mandatory retirement ages, thereby enabling workers to continue working for as long as they are both willing and able; other countries, such as Canada, are considering similar actions.[14] Employers are also beginning to recognize the value and importance of retaining older workers, offering them incentives to remain on the job rather than retire early. Since 2002, several countries, notably Denmark and Finland, have instituted new and more flexible employment arrangements for older workers, and increased spending on older-

[12] See Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development *Live longer, work longer*, Paris, 2006.

[13] These and subsequent figures on labour-force participation rates are derived from calculations by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs based on ILO, *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, 4th edition (2005).

[14] See www.labourlawoffice.com/misc/mandatory_retirement.html.

worker training programmes. Older workers are also being given more opportunities to enrol in education and training programmes so that their skills keep abreast of new technological developments. The attractiveness of training and its returns for older workers can be increased by a combination of policy measures, such as greater investment in lifelong learning at mid-career, adopting teaching methods and content suited to the needs of older workers, as well as by promoting later retirement, which may itself encourage greater investment in training programmes.[12] In some economies in transition (for example, the Russian Federation and Ukraine), working pensioners are often encouraged to stay on board and allowed to collect their full pension in addition to their salary.

25. In developing countries, such as Bangladesh, China and India, efforts are being made to grant older workers better access to credit so that they can start their own businesses, particularly in rural communities that have experienced a mass migration of younger persons to urban areas. For older persons no longer able to work, the introduction of social pension programmes is enabling them to retire with dignity and security.

D. Meeting the growing demand for care

26. The development of high-quality, affordable and sustainable health and care services, in particular long-term care, is one of the biggest challenges of rapidly ageing societies. An increasing demand for care services, predominantly their non-medical components, is associated with an ongoing shift away from residential towards ambulant and home care. There is also greater recognition that modern health-care systems are not always equipped to deal with the growing ageing population, because they have been set up for acute care and expediency, rather than attending to the chronic illnesses common in older patients. As they age, people often experience multiple health problems, which require integrated treatment approaches that are not yet adequately developed in most countries. Another unmet challenge is that posed by disease prevention and the promotion of well-being as a person ages. Thus, an important aspect of managing adequate care provision will be the integration of preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures within a continuum of care, including palliative care, and enhancing support for caregivers.

27. Public discussions in many countries still centre on the cost of health programmes for the growing number of older persons. The results of recent studies show that ageing does not by itself explain why health-care costs have been rising at a much faster rate than inflation almost everywhere in the world, and that greater longevity has little effect on total health-care costs, because the greatest costs are concentrated near the end of life, regardless of age at death. The implications for both developed and developing countries are that health-care expenditures could potentially be lowered if care were focused on keeping people healthier and disability-free for as long as possible.

28. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that among policymakers, the goal of healthy ageing and a lifelong approach to ensuring a healthy old age have become more widespread since 2002, particularly in countries with a higher degree of population ageing. A number of European countries have recently shifted their policy focus to encompass active, healthy ageing and measures to enhance services for older persons remaining in their own homes; for example, the Government of

Spain has addressed those two issues by making them the main pillars of its social policy for older persons.

29. Many developing countries have traditionally relied on a social support system based primarily on family care that provides support for older persons within the extended family. However, smaller families and the increasing percentage of older persons living alone over the coming decades will stretch traditional family-based social care as the number of available caregivers decline, while cultural norms, such as filial piety, continue to change.[15]

30. Apart from the above factors, the shift from extended to nuclear families, together with migration both within and outside the country, also contributes to the decline in the co-residence of older persons with their family members, and, consequently, leads to an increase in the average cost of living of older persons residing alone. With declining family support, the challenge of ensuring adequate living arrangements will have to be taken up by Governments. In the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), such a development has already been witnessed in Japan, which, over the past few years, has significantly altered its parameters for long-term care of older persons by introducing, in 2000, a mandatory long-term care insurance system. Further reform measures were undertaken in 2005 to enhance the sustainability of the system. In most developing countries, older women are often the main, if not the only, caregivers in the extended family, and have to cope with various challenges without any public support.

31. In most developed countries, provision of community care has become the policy choice. While generally considered a positive one, that trend increases the burden on family carers (primarily women) and also runs counter to employment policies, which generally encourage women to remain in the workforce and earn their own pension rights. In addition, more and more older persons are caring for even older relatives. These relatively new developments have yet to be addressed with adequate policy responses, such as the provision of services for informal carers, including older carers.

32. In the European region, the number of very old persons (over 80) will increase three to four times within two generations, which means that a greater number will be at risk of dependence, even as health status improves and disability prevalence decreases. While at-home care services have been expanded significantly, additional provisions, including budget allocations, are required to support a growing number of extremely frail older persons and their caregivers. In the United Kingdom, for instance, expenditure on long-term care is expected to rise by about 315 per cent in real terms between 2000 and 2051 to correspond to current and future demographic changes.[16]

33. Another issue that will have to be tackled in many developed countries is the financing of programmes for older persons not covered by private, long-term care insurance. In most countries of the European Union, social care is means-tested,

[15] See *Living Arrangements of Older Persons Around the World* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.9).

[16] Alliance for Health and the Future, "Promoting age equality in the delivery of health care", *Issue Brief*, vol. 2, No. 3.

thus making a large number of people responsible for paying the full cost of care and placing a greater burden on family members for informal care.

34. In many regions, support services for providers of informal, long-term care are limited. For instance, in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), several countries have established or expanded nursing home services to respond to varied needs, from free-of-charge or nominal-charge institutions run by Governments or non-governmental organizations, to expensive profitable private homes. However, support for families caring for older persons is rare; training for social workers on the needs of older persons or their carers, is also rare, or even non-existent.

35. The majority of countries in Africa lack age-specific health or care policies, and reliable data on the overall burden of disease on older persons are rare. Access to primary health care for older persons is severely limited, in both physical and financial terms. Even when older persons are entitled to free health care, payment is often requested for services, or health care is denied owing to their advanced age. In general, public health policies still focus almost exclusively on children and mothers, while the health concerns of older persons are often ignored. As the first step in initiating necessary adjustments in health- and social-care policies, it is important to raise the awareness of policymakers about the growing number of older persons and their specific health-care needs.

36. In Latin America, a number of countries, including Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay, have taken steps to regulate long-term care institutions. Some countries, such as Chile and Costa Rica, have devised registration systems to enforce higher levels of quality in service provision. Informal care programmes are a recent addition to the public agenda: for instance, Argentina instituted a national home-care programme, Costa Rica has a programme run by the National Council of Older Persons, and Cuba provides home support and basic needs assistance to almost 95,000 older persons. El Salvador has instituted specific training programmes for homecare providers and Nicaragua has published self-training materials for caregivers.

37. Before the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action, many countries of the Caribbean subregion, one of the fastest ageing regions in the world, had already established, within the limits of available resources, policies and programmes in the area of social and medical care of older persons. Nearly all countries in the subregion already provide, or are planning to provide, free medical care to older persons. In recent years, there have been additional efforts to expand or reorient services to meet the needs of a growing number of older persons.

38. Age inequalities in terms of access and outcomes of health care are issues for debate and action in both developed and developing countries. While there may not be an overt age discrimination policy, negative stereotypes about older persons and their health-care needs still prevail and often influence medical practice. Around the world, scarce resources, combined with the low profile and prestige of geriatric medicine, are behind the shortage of qualified professionals — both medical doctors and nurses — that leads to numerous cases of neglect or inappropriate care of older persons owing to, among other reasons, misdiagnosis and overmedication. Consequences include the diminishing quality of life of older persons and increasing costs of health- and long-term care in old age.

39. Attention to the geriatric training of health professionals should be complemented by educational programmes for family caregivers and the general public about the ageing process. It is equally important to ensure close collaboration between health-care and social-services professionals involved in the care of older persons. Some developing countries, including Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, have been successful in introducing geriatrics into several academic programmes and universities. There is some evidence of attempts to reorient public policy towards meeting the needs of older persons in economies in transition. For instance, in Kazakhstan, a pilot medical centre was set up to integrate the provision of medical and social assistance to vulnerable groups, including older persons, and improve the quality of medical services. In Malaysia, the Institute of Gerontology was founded in April 2002, offering post-graduate studies in the field of old age and ageing; in 2005, a new subject on "Basic gerontology and geriatric services" was introduced to upper secondary-level students.

40. Some progress since the Second World Assembly on Ageing can be noted on the political front in the area of older caregivers for victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (General Assembly resolution 60/262), adopted by the General Assembly at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, calls for practical measures to support social systems protecting children affected and living with HIV/AIDS, and for the extension of assistance to older persons caring for grandchildren who have become orphaned, a trend prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. The move from rhetoric to practical measures, however, has been slow.

E. Empowerment of older persons: protecting rights, facilitating participation and promoting positive and balanced images of ageing

Protecting rights

41. The fight against age-based discrimination and the promotion of the dignity of older persons are fundamental to ensuring the respect that older persons deserve. Promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms are important in order to achieve a society for all ages (see the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, para. 13).

42. Age-based discrimination, which prevents full societal participation by older people, is a long-standing issue in almost all societies. Older people are discriminated against in key development arenas, such as health, education, employment and access to other services. Older people's voices are too rarely heard in shaping policies and processes, including those that directly affect them. Vulnerable older people can suffer unduly from neglect and abuse, particularly older women, whose right to inherit land and property are often threatened. Widows are especially vulnerable and prone to violence, receiving few or none of the entitlements obtained by men, and in some instances, even lacking comparable status in the community and the family.[17]

[17] UNFPA, *Population, Ageing and Development: Operational Challenges in Developing Countries* (2002).

43. Human rights violations, marginalization and abuse have been identified among the main negative trends and factors affecting older persons in the region of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). A better understanding of the effects of those factors on the situation of older persons and their interplay with other multiple factors is a major priority for action on ageing in the region. The human rights of older persons, especially those of poorer and non-naturalized, non-citizen immigrant residents, may be put at risk by ongoing changes in immigration laws and family reunification practices, including restrictions concerning residence permits and social and medical entitlements and welfare benefits.

44. In the absence of internationally agreed human rights instruments in the area of ageing, such as a convention or similar legally binding document, the agenda of older persons' rights has been gaining ground primarily at the national level, through the promulgation of special rules and regulations to protect those rights, as well as through the development of advocacy and training and education programmes. Human rights education for older persons is important, as it helps them to play a more active role in securing their rights, while the training of professional staff, care volunteers and family members may improve services for older persons in institutions and at home. Education of the young regarding ageing and the rights of older persons should not be underestimated; rather, it should be seen as a fundamental, long-term strategy to combat age-based discrimination.

45. Since 2002, many countries have adopted a broad range of legislation addressing the rights of older persons. Countries in the region of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) that have done so include Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In Colombia, older people are included in the national human rights plan as a sector of the population with specific rights and entitlements. At least 80 per cent of ECLAC countries have some type of legislation protecting the rights of older persons in institutions.

46. Existing biases in the hiring and dismissal of older workers reflect negative attitudes that are still prevalent at the national level. In that context, legal measures to promote labour-force participation of older persons may be considered an important benchmark on the way to combat age-based discrimination. The protection of the rights of older persons has been identified as one of the highest priorities for action in the coming decades by governments of many countries. In the ESCAP region, for example, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka have introduced anti-age-discrimination legislation. Laws protecting the rights of older people also exist in the European Union, where countries are working to meet the deadline at the end of 2006 for compliance with the Equal Treatment Framework Directive of 1999.

47. In combating age-based discrimination, Governments have been effectively assisted by civil society organizations. At the global level, HelpAge International has continued to address the issue of the rights of older persons through research and advocacy. The International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse, in partnership with the WHO Ageing and Life Course programme, individuals and non-governmental organizations from around the world, launched on 15 June 2006 the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to raise awareness of the widespread prevalence of elder abuse and the need to combat it. The non-governmental organization AGE — the European Older People's Platform — is committed to

combating all forms of age discrimination in all areas of life, and aims to monitor and influence the implementation of various relevant European Union initiatives.

Facilitating participation

48. The participation of older persons in different spheres of society is a crucial aspect in realizing their rights and an essential tool of their empowerment. Their participation is multifaceted, as it includes, inter alia, their active involvement in the implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being, sharing their knowledge and skills with younger generations and forming movements or associations that could help them articulate their concerns and claim their rights. However, for many older persons around the world, that goal has not been achieved.

49. Nevertheless, since the Second World Assembly on Ageing, a broader range of government and civil society initiatives has sprung up, aimed at creating forums for the participation of older persons. There have been encouraging examples in some countries of greater involvement of older persons in decision-making, such as the mobilization of older persons' groups to monitor the implementation of government policies and programmes on ageing, and the partnering of non-governmental organizations with Governments to meet the objectives of the Madrid Plan of Action. Some Governments have created coordinating bodies on ageing issues, which include older persons together with such traditional stakeholders as government agencies.[18]

50. During the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007-2008, the bottom-up participatory approach could directly involve older persons in the review and appraisal exercise, and, simultaneously, provide an "entry point" for their participation in all stages of implementation of the Plan. The immediate purpose of the participatory approach is to ensure that older persons have an opportunity to express their views on the impact of national policy actions affecting their lives. However, the overall goal is to ensure that older persons are involved in all phases of policy actions on ageing, including policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Promoting positive and balanced images of ageing

51. The protection of the rights of older persons is the core element of any policy related to ageing and the most important prerequisite of empowerment of older persons. However, for the process of empowerment to become sustainable, it is necessary to ensure that older persons are recognized and appreciated as valued and welcome members of society. Unfortunately, that is very often not the case and prevailing images of and corresponding attitudes towards older persons are negative. The empowerment of older persons and the promotion of their full participation are essential elements of active ageing (see the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, art. 12).

52. In recent years, there has been tremendous growth in public awareness about the ageing of societies, as reflected, for example, in the media and the business community. Quite often, however, media stories tend to focus on alarmist reports about the potentially negative impact of changing age structures and the growing

[18] For a more detailed description of regional institutional arrangements, see A/61/167, paras. 18 and 19.

number of older persons. Stories describing positive and active ageing, be it in the workplace or the community, are often lacking.

53. The alarmist nature of reports tends to be built on a fear of economic difficulties, or even the decline of societies as a result of ageing, including such effects as higher costs of pensions, health care and long-term care. Benefits for future generations — in terms of improved educational and job opportunities owing to a declining labour force — and for the environment are often overlooked, while a decline in the working age population is depicted as a threat to national security. It is also often underreported that, thanks to expected productivity gains, in the future fewer workers could produce more. In addition, older persons in intergenerational living arrangements could help young parents with childcare responsibilities, allowing for higher labour-force participation rates. Furthermore, appropriate savings and investment strategies could prevent the perceived financial difficulties of ageing societies.

54. Meanwhile, WHO has promoted a positive approach to active ageing, seen as a "process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. ... It allows people to realize their potential for physical, social and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society according to their needs, desires and capacities, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they require assistance".[19] Reports on the positive effects of life-long physical and mental exercise and the ongoing engagement of older persons in employment, volunteering, continuing education and care-giving activities for family members or others have burgeoned since 2002.

55. A new image of older persons as a potentially significant segment of the consumer market is beginning to attract businesses lured by the size of the soon-to-retire baby-boom generation. Businesses are beginning to target their products at older customers or to seek to develop new products and technologies that will appeal to or be needed by a new generation of older persons.

56. The existing negative perceptions regarding older persons are often unfounded and far from "neutral", particularly regarding the employment of older workers. A recent OECD study concluded that it was important to dispel a number of myths in that area, given that they could undermine reform efforts and the adoption of age-friendly practices. For example, despite statements that working capacity systematically deteriorates with age, many studies of employers and older workers clearly demonstrate that older and younger workers have both strengths and weaknesses, and can contribute differently to the workforce. Likewise, there is little evidence to support the assertion that work intensification in existing jobs is exerting pressure on workers to retire early, or that older workers are just "too tired" to carry on working. In fact, many older workers are fully capable and willing to carry on working if given more flexible working-time options.[12]

57. To be relevant and practical, the concept of "active ageing" should be firmly linked to reality. Generalizing about ageing, from either a negative or a positive perspective, can be counterproductive; a more balanced perspective requires an approach that sees later life not as a one-dimensional experience, but as a fluid,

[19] See World Health Organization, *Active Ageing: A Policy Framework* (Geneva, 2002).

complex and heterogeneous time.[20] Overall, older persons possess higher accumulated stocks of human capabilities and experience, and their contribution to society must be recognized. Removing structural barriers could contribute to further improvements in their productive capacity and flexibility.

F. Research on ageing and policy action: towards better synergy

58. The Madrid International Plan of Action identifies research activities and national data collection and analysis for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation as crucial elements of the national implementation process. At the international level, the exchange of researchers and research findings and data collection to support policy and programme development are listed in the Plan as a priority for international cooperation on ageing.

59. Since the Second World Assembly on Ageing, numerous initiatives undertaken at the national and cross-national levels have contributed to a better understanding and knowledge of ageing. They include: the establishment in 2004 of the International Research Centre for Healthy Ageing and Longevity in Sydney, Australia; the launch in 2005 of AFRAN, a research network of key African and international scholars, policymakers and civil society representatives in the field of ageing; a series of World Ageing and Generations Congresses organized by the World Demographic Association at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland; and the establishment of the European Research Area in Ageing project.

60. The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics continues its efforts to consolidate global scientific inquiries into ageing through the exchange of information, regional conferences and global congresses of gerontology and geriatrics. The Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-first Century, the project conducted jointly by the Association and the United Nations programme on ageing, has been advancing: regional workshops were held in 2003 and an inter-regional consultation was organized in 2005. While research on ageing is indispensable, for its own sake as well as for providing a foundation for policy actions, in practice the link between research and policy agendas remains mostly sporadic. The first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action therefore offers an opportunity for policymakers and researchers to explore the means to achieve better coordination of their work in the area of ageing.

61. The priorities of policy-related research on population ageing include the implications of epidemiological transition; the growing incidence of obesity and its consequences for longevity; the consequences of population decline in some countries; and migration — both international and rural to urban — and its effects. In developing countries, acute infectious diseases pose a constant threat to individual health and national development, as does the prevalence of chronic diseases. Most if not all disorders or effects are preventable through appropriate health promotion measures, but if neglected can become major causes of chronic conditions and disability in later years. Furthermore, not only would older persons

[20] Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, "Ageing, development and social protection: generalizations, myths and stereotypes in living longer", in UNRISD and Zed Books, *Ageing, Development and Social Protection* (London, 2004).

experience a diminished quality of life, but the fragile health-care systems of developing countries would most likely become overburdened.

62. Unhealthy diets, smoking and sedentary lifestyles are behind the emerging obesity pandemic, which in turn leads to an increase in type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and cancer in all world regions. Particularly troubling is the rapid rise in childhood obesity throughout the world. The phenomenon is expected to cause significant increases in obesity-induced health conditions as these children reach middle age. If current trends continue, today's younger generation could live shorter and less healthy lives than their parents' generation for the first time in the modern era.[21] Thus, promoting better health among younger people represents the best strategy for meeting the future demands for care in an ageing society.

63. Significant advances have also been made in the understanding of the basic foundations of individual ageing and longevity, pointing to numerous cases of interaction between genetic mechanisms[22] and the environment. The latter includes a host of physical, biological and social factors, such as climate, nutrition, lifestyle, intergenerational relations and many others.

64. The findings of biomedical studies of ageing and age-associated disorders have direct implications for individual health and longevity, public policies aimed at promoting healthy and active ageing, and for the treatment and prevention of age-related disorders and disabilities. Scientists are now calling for a paradigm shift away from the disease-specific approach towards one more focused on the causes of diseases and their relation to ageing. A mounting body of evidence points to a possibility, while still elusive, that it might be possible to slow the ageing process in humans. The prospect that humanity could derive a number of social, economic and health benefits from the extension of healthy life is known as the longevity dividend. If achieved, such a dividend could have far-reaching social, ethical, psychological and economic implications.[23]

65. In studies on mental health, increasing attention is being paid to the early detection and prevention of age-related disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. Some promise is seen in medical interventions aimed at the early detection of mental decline and the prevention or slowing of progression towards senile dementia.

66. Better synergy between the research agenda and the policy process would ensure that society benefits from a greater understanding of the changing demographics and fundamentals of human ageing. With that added knowledge, societies would be better prepared to provide appropriate health and social services and support to respond to an advancing median age, a decreasing fertility rate and prolonged life expectancy.

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[21] "A potential decline in life expectancy in the United States in the 21st century", *The New England Journal of Medicine* (17 March 2005).

[22] David Sinclair and Lenny Guarente, "Unlocking the secrets of longevity genes", *Scientific American* (March 2006).

[23] S. Jay Olshansky, Daniel Perry, Richard A. Miller and Robert N. Butler, "In pursuit of the longevity dividend", *The Scientist* (March 2006).

III. Conclusions and recommendations

67. Participants at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid discussed and defined a broader agenda for global issues on ageing, helping to "demystify" population and individual ageing and to include in political agendas a range of objectives and goals connected to achieving "a society for all ages". Progress in that field has been uneven. Growing awareness of ageing is a clear sign of advances on that front. On the other hand, in many countries, progress since 2002 in achieving the objectives of the Madrid Plan of Action may appear rather slow, when evident at all.

68. **The present report is not intended to replace the global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, which is expected to bring, through a bottom-up participatory exercise as well as other methods of policy evaluation, first-hand results, conclusions and follow-up ideas regarding challenges in its implementation. In order to facilitate the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Plan, the Commission may wish to invite Governments to take into consideration the selected policy issues highlighted in the report while identifying specific areas for in-depth participatory inquiries using a bottom-up approach.**

69. **Significant contributions to the present report were made by the regional commissions. The Commission may wish to request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations focal point on ageing, to continue and strengthen its collaboration with the focal points on ageing in regional commissions in conducting the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Plan, including the identification of regional and global priorities for its further implementation. In addition, the Commission may also wish to welcome the initiatives of the Governments of Brazil, China and Spain to host, in 2007, the regional review and appraisal meetings in the ECLAC, ESCAP and ECE regions, and to invite countries of the ECA and ESCWA regions to cooperate in conducting the review and appraisal exercises in their regions, including organizing regional meetings.**

70. **The Commission may wish to recommend to Governments that they redouble their efforts to integrate older persons into the mainstream of development policies, and encourage coordinated actions on the many fronts related to the ageing agenda, particularly by improving working conditions for older workers, dismantling employer barriers to hiring and retaining older workers, promoting employability and providing better care services.**

71. **With reference to the Madrid Plan of Action, the Commission may wish to reiterate the importance of independent and impartial monitoring of progress in its implementation, and invite academia and civil society organizations to conduct further studies, share their findings during the review and appraisal and formulate proposals for future policy action.**

72. **Given that the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will be concluded at the forty-sixth session of the Commission, in 2008, the Commission may wish to invite all major stakeholders, including Governments, academia and non-governmental organizations, to organize, during its forty-sixth session, parallel and satellite events, including panel discussions, seminars and round tables, to explore the findings of the review and appraisal exercise and to identify future priorities for implementation of the Plan.**